

GRAD·NEWSLETTER

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G.S.A. Council Members

President Atef Fahim
Vice-President.....Giuseppe Matteo
Secretary-TreasurerCharles Berks
Commerce Rep.....Sheldon Davis
Division II Rep.....Catherine Bielajew
Division III Rep.....Rajender Sipehia
Engineering Rep.....Omprakash Sharma
Fine Arts Rep.....Janice Seline
Board of Governors Rep.....Charles Berks

Anyone wishing to fill the vacancy for Division I Rep., please contact our office at 879-7219.

INCREASE IN T.A. SALARIES

The Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Berks, and other Council members have been discussing this issue with Rector O'Brien and Vice-Rectors Breen and Bordan. Negotiations have been going well and we hope to obtain a good increase in T.A. salaries for graduate students.

G.S.A. ELECTIONS 1979/80

The elections were delayed for very valid reasons. Since the ballots are mailed to G.S.A. members, and members vote for representatives according to their faculty or division, a faculty and division breakdown in the computer listing is needed. Obtaining this breakdown created some unanticipated delays. Contrary to popular belief, most graduate students don't disappear during the summer, but are registered for 12 months a year.

The editorial staff of Solstice have joined the Sharma-Bouchard bandwagon. Their references to a "Curiously similar situation" three years ago is very misleading. The situation concerned an individual whose eligibility as a candidate was in question. It created quite a stir, not only within the G.S.A. Council, but with the Administration. The Board of Governors did step in, and in so doing rocked the boat by declaring the candidate ineligible. In retrospect, they did the right thing. In the present case, the Board took time to make an informal inquiry to consider the validity of the allegations. They were found to be false.

The Solstice staff seems unaware of the many things the G.S.A. has done for graduate students. For starters, sponsorship to attend conferences, increases in teaching assistantship stipends, help for foreign graduate students affected by differential fees, sponsoring speakers such as Malcolm Muggeridge, funds for faculty/division activities etc., etc.

Proposed Amendments to the G.S.A. Constitution

Article II - Purpose and Structure, Section 2.b) should read as follows:

The Faculty or Division Associations shall be governed internally by an Executive Council in accordance with a constitution established by such Faculty or Division Association and approved by the G.S.A. Council and the Board of Governors of Concordia University. Said constitution shall not contradict or infringe upon the constitution of the G.S.A.

Article III - Membership should read as follows:

1. The membership of the G.S.A. shall be composed only of students of Concordia University registered as graduate students.
2. Any member found by the G.S.A. Council to be guilty of conduct detrimental to the G.S.A. shall cease to be a member.
3. Membership shall be compulsory for all graduate students subject to Article III, 2.

Article IV - Fees

Section 3 should read as follows:

3. Each Faculty or Division Association (see Art.II.2) may levy a fee over and above the G.S.A. fee on students of their respective faculty or division subject to the approval of the G.S.A. Council and the Board of Governors of Concordia University.

Section 4 should read as follows:

4. Each Faculty or Division Association shall have its fees collected on its behalf by the G.S.A. from all graduate students registered in such Faculty or Division.

The following section should be added:

5. Fees collected by the G.S.A. on the behalf of Faculty or Division Associations shall be turned over to each respective Association only after the approval by the G.S.A. Council of a submitted written budget and of a financial statement for the previous year, both already approved by the respective Faculty or Division Association. (see Article IX. 4 and 5.)

Article V should read as follows:

Article V - Graduate Students' Council

- d) One council member from the Faculty of Engineering
- e) One council member from the Faculty of Commerce
- f) One council member from the Faculty of Fine Arts
- g) Three council members from the Faculty of Arts and Science, one each from Divisions I, II and III.

Article VI should read as follows:

Article VI - Officers and Division and Faculty Representatives

1. The Officers of the G.S.A. shall be the President, the Vice-President and the Secretary-Treasurer. The remaining council members shall be referred to as either Faculty or Division Representatives.

2. Duties:

- a) The President shall preside at all meetings of the G.S.A., shall be Chairperson of the Graduate Students' Council and its Executive Committee (see Article VII), shall be Chairperson of the Board of Standing Committees (see Article VIII), shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive of all Standing Committees and shall be the official spokesperson for the G.S.A. Council. The President shall be responsible for relations with other student communities, student governments and the General public.
- b) The Vice-President shall assist the President in the execution of his/her duties and in the absence of the President shall perform all the duties pertaining to that office, (see Art. VI.2).
- c) The Secretary-Treasurer shall be custodian of all records, ledgers, receipts or documents of any nature whatsoever belonging to or dealing with the affairs of the Association. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be in charge of all receipts and disbursements and shall be the Secretary of the Graduate Students' Council, of its Executive Committee and of the Board of Standing Committees. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for the policy of administration of funds accruing to the G.S.A.
- d) The Faculty or Division Representative shall act as the liaison between the G.S.A. Council and his or her Faculty or Division, shall co-ordinate all G.S.A. activities, social or academic, occurring within his or her Faculty or Division, shall recommend through the Secretary-Treasurer, the allocation of funds to his or her Faculty or Division by the G.S.A. Council and shall assist the Officers in the execution of their duties.

Article VII should read as follows:

Article VII - Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the G.S.A. (see Article VI.1).
2. The Executive Committee shall meet as required at the call of the President.
3. The Executive Committee shall be responsible to the G.S.A. Council.

Article VIII should read as follows:

Article VIII - Standing Committees

All Standing Committees shall be responsible to the G.S.A. Council.

Article IX - Finances Sections 3 and 4 should read as follows:

3. All cheques drawn against the G.S.A. shall be signed by the Secretary-Treasurer, and either the President or the Vice-President OR by the University Treasurer or his representative upon application from the Secretary-Treasurer and either the President or the Vice-President.
4. The fiscal year of the G.S.A. shall be the same as the fiscal year of Concordia University. A financial statement for the fiscal year of the G.S.A. and the various Standing Committees under its control shall be prepared by the end of the fiscal year.

Article X - Elections should read as follows:

1. The officers and representatives shall be elected annually by an election to be held by the end of the second week in May, to be conducted by secret ballot in accordance with the electoral bylaws of the G.S.A.
 - a) Nomination for candidates for officers shall be signed by five (5) members of the G.S.A.
 - b) Nominations for candidates for representatives shall be signed by three (3) members of the G.S.A. of the faculty or division to be represented.
 - c) Officers shall be elected from and by the entire membership of the G.S.A.
 - d) Representatives shall be elected from and by the membership of the faculty or division which they are to represent.
2. Council members shall take office commencing June 1 each year.
3. In the event of an unfilled Council position, the G.S.A. Council shall appoint a member to that position.
4. Elected Council members shall serve for one (1) year following their taking office and appointees shall serve for the balance of the term following their appointment.
5. The Graduate Students' Council shall have the right to dismiss any Council member by a vote of 2/3 of the members of the Graduate Students' Council.

Article XII - Meetings of the G.S.A.

Section 1 shall be omitted. The rest should read as follows:

1. A general meeting shall be held at any time following three days notice to the members, to gauge graduate students' opinions on exceptional matters.
2. A special general meeting shall be called by the President upon receipt of a written request signed by at least 7% of the members and stating the reason for requiring the meeting. Notice of at least three days of such a meeting shall be given to the members.
3. At all meetings of the G.S.A., 7% of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.
4. All meetings shall be conducted according to the Constitution, and its bylaws and the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, where not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws.

Article XIII - Referendum should read as follows:

1. A referendum shall be scheduled and held upon a 2/3 majority vote of the G.S.A. Council.
2. All referendum to be binding on the G.S.A. Council shall require:
 - a) at least a 7% turn-out of eligible voters.
 - b) 2/3 majority of the votes casts.

Don't hesitate to contact us, should you desire further information.